

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF REGULATION & LICENSING



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FILE COPY

STATE OF WISCONSIN
BEFORE THE PHARMACY EXAMINING BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF THE
DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS AGAINST

ERIC A. SCHUSTER, R.Ph.,
RESPONDENT.

FINAL DECISION AND ORDER

95 PHM 55

The parties to this action for the purposes of Wis. Stats. sec. 227.53 are:

Eric A. Schuster, R.Ph.
1414 Sharon St.
Janesville, WI 53545

Pharmacy Examining Board
P.O. Box 8935
Madison, WI 53708-8935

Department of Regulation and Licensing
Division of Enforcement
P.O. Box 8935
Madison, WI 53708-8935

The parties in this matter agree to the terms and conditions of the attached Stipulation as the final decision of this matter, subject to the approval of the Board. The Board has reviewed this Stipulation and considers it acceptable.

Accordingly, the Board in this matter adopts the attached Stipulation and makes the following:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Respondent Eric A. Schuster (dob 10/30/52) was formerly licensed under the provisions of Chapter 450, Wis. Stats., to practice as a registered pharmacist in the State of Wisconsin, under license number 10012, first granted on 6/12/81, and which expired on 5/31/92. Respondent was previously disciplined by the Board in 1988 for conduct growing out of dependence upon cocaine and other controlled substances; respondent's license was limited for four years and he entered and completed a treatment program (85 PHM 59). Respondent's unlimited license was restored on 4/12/89.
2. On and between 6/1/92 and 8/28/96, respondent was principally employed as a pharmacist in Illinois. However, on multiple occasions he worked as a relief pharmacist in several pharmacies in Wisconsin, without being currently licensed.
3. On 1/9/96, respondent pled guilty to violating §943.20(1)(a), Stats., misdemeanor theft, the circumstances of which were that he stole didrex and oxycodone from his employing pharmacy, for he personal use. Respondent was convicted on his plea, and sentence was withheld; respondent was placed on probation for 2 years. Conditions of probation include 100 hours of community service, an AODA evaluation and treatment as deemed necessary, and costs.

4. In approximately May, 1995, respondent began to self-prescribe hydrocodone for what he believed were tension headaches. Until this time, respondent had consumed no unprescribed controlled substances since he first entered treatment in February, 1985. He later began to consume oxycodone, benzphetamine, and dextedrine, and was dependent upon these substances. These substances were obtained by taking them from inventory at the pharmacies where he was employed.

5. On several occasions in 1994 and 1995, respondent self-prescribed Claritin, Zoloft, Entex LA, and Zantac by creating false prescription records for himself at his employing pharmacy, stating that the drugs were prescribed by a physician-acquaintance of his when in fact they were not.

6. Respondent has entered treatment and has not worked as a pharmacist since 8/22/95, when he was discharged by his employing pharmacy for the conduct referred to in paragraph 4, above. He represents to the Board that he has consumed no unprescribed substances since 8/22/95, and has provided the Board with access to all treatment records.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

3. The Wisconsin Pharmacy Examining Board has jurisdiction over this matter and authority to take disciplinary action against the Respondent pursuant to §450.10(1), Wis. Stats. and ch. Phar 10, Wis. Adm. Code.

4. The Wisconsin Pharmacy Examining Board is authorized to enter into the attached Stipulation pursuant to §227.44(5), Wis. Stats.

5. The facts set forth in ¶2, above, constitute unprofessional conduct pursuant to §450.03(1), Wis. Stats. The facts set forth in ¶3, above, constituted unprofessional conduct pursuant to §450.10(1)(a)2., Wis. Stats. The facts set forth in ¶4, above, constitute unprofessional conduct pursuant to §§161.41(2r)(a) and (3), and 450.10(1)(a)2., Wis. Stats. The facts set forth in ¶5, above, constitute unprofessional conduct pursuant to §450.11(1), Wis. Stats.

ORDER

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the STIPULATION of the parties, attached hereto, is ACCEPTED.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that respondent may renew his Wisconsin pharmacist license upon payment of all renewal fees which would have been due from the time his license expired to the present.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that effective on the date of this Order or the date of renewal, whichever is later, the pharmacist license of respondent is SUSPENDED for a period of not less than five (5) years. The Board in its discretion may restore respondent's license to full, unlimited status only upon petition by respondent after completion of five years of practice of pharmacy in compliance with all terms and conditions of this Order, and a demonstration that respondent may practice pharmacy without condition or limitation with skill and safety to patient and public.

1. STAY OF SUSPENSION. The suspension is STAYED for a period of three months, conditioned upon compliance with the conditions and limitations outlined in paragraph 2., below.

a. Respondent may apply for consecutive three (3) month extensions of the stay of suspension, which shall be granted upon acceptable demonstration of compliance with the conditions and limitations imposed on the respondent for rehabilitation and practice during the prior three (3) month period. "Three months" means until the third regular Board meeting after the meeting at which any stay of suspension is granted.

b. The Board may without hearing deny an application for extension of the stay, or commence other appropriate action, upon receipt of information that respondent has violated any of the terms or conditions of this Order. If the Board denies the petition by the respondent for an extension, the Board shall afford an opportunity for hearing in accordance with the procedures set forth in ch. RL 1, Wis. Adm. Code upon timely receipt of a request for hearing.

c. Upon a showing by respondent of successful compliance for a period of five years with the terms of paragraph 2., below, and upon a showing that respondent has made satisfactory restitution for any losses caused by the conduct described above and compliance with all other terms of this Order, the Board may grant a petition by the Respondent for return of full licensure.

d. The applications for extension under 1.a. and all required reports under 2.a-c. shall be due on each and every August 1st, and each three months thereafter, for the period that this Order remains in effect.

e. Respondent shall forthwith surrender all indicia of licensure to the Department by mail or in person, and the Department shall then issue limited licensure credentials to respondent. Respondent shall also surrender all indicia of licensure to any agent of the Department who requests them.

2. CONDITIONS OF STAY AND LIMITATIONS. The initial stay of suspension and any subsequent stay shall be conditioned upon the following terms and limitations:

a. Non-Prescription Use of Drugs and Alcohol Prohibited. Respondent shall remain free of alcohol, prescription drugs and controlled substances not prescribed by a practitioner for legitimate medical purposes. Respondent shall have his physician report in writing to the supervising physician or therapist under paragraph 2.b.(1) all medications prescribed to the respondent within 3 days of such prescribing.

b. Rehabilitation, Monitoring and Treatment Program. Respondent shall continue to participate in a rehabilitation, monitoring and treatment program acceptable to the Board for the treatment of chemical abuse and dependency. Such program shall consist of the following elements and requirements:

(1) AODA Rehabilitation. Respondent shall continue to participate in an AODA rehabilitation program under the care and supervision of a qualified physician or therapist (hereinafter, "supervising physician or therapist"), at an accredited drug and alcohol abuse/dependency treatment facility. Respondent shall obtain from the Pharmacy Examining Board prior approval of the drug and alcohol abuse/dependency treatment facility and the supervising physician or therapist. The supervising physician or therapist shall be responsible for the Respondent's total rehabilitation program. Respondent shall immediately provide a copy of this order to his supervising physician or therapist. Respondent shall participate in and comply with all recommendations for treatment, subject to the requirements of this order.

(2) Individual/Group Therapy. The rehabilitation program shall include and respondent shall participate in individual and/or group therapy sessions for the first year of the stayed suspension upon a schedule as recommended by the supervising physician or therapist, but not less than once weekly. Such therapy shall be conducted by the supervising physician or therapist, or another qualified physician or therapist as designated by the supervising physician or therapist and acceptable to the Board. After the first year of stayed suspension, this requirement for therapy sessions may be modified only upon written petition, and a written recommendation by the supervising physician or therapist expressly supporting the modifications sought. A denial of such petition for modification shall not be deemed a denial of the license under §§ 227.01(3) or 227.42, Wis. Stats., or ch. RL 1, Wis. Adm. Code, and shall not be subject to any right to further hearing or appeal.

(3) AA/NA Meetings. Respondent shall attend Narcotics Anonymous and/or Alcoholic Anonymous meetings or an equivalent program for recovering professionals, upon a frequency as recommended by the supervising physician or therapist, but not less than one meeting per week. Attendance of Respondent at such meetings shall be verified and reported monthly to the supervising physician or therapist.

(4) Drug Screening. Respondent's rehabilitation program shall include and Respondent shall participate in a program of random, witnessed collection of urine and/or blood specimens for monitoring for the presence of the following substances and their metabolites: tetrahydrocannabinols, alcohol, amphetamines, cocaine, opiates, and benzodiazepines, and on a frequency of not less than:

(a) Eight times per month for the first year following the date respondent resumes practicing pharmacy, or once per week if not practicing pharmacy.

(b) Six times per month for the second year following respondent's resumption of practice.

(c) Four times per month for the third through fifth years following resumption of practice.

All urine screens shall include testing and reporting of the specific gravity of the urine specimen, and shall be conducted by a NIDA-certified facility.

The random drug and alcohol screening program shall include all hours of the day and evenings, and include weekends and holidays, for collection of specimens. Failure of the drug and alcohol screening program to be conducted on a random basis shall be deemed a violation of this Order and may result in denial of extension of Stay of Suspension, disapproval of the monitoring facility or program, or other action as deemed appropriate by the Board.

Respondent shall appear and provide a specimen not later than 5 hours following a request for a specimen.

If the physician or therapist supervising the Respondent's plan of care, Respondent's employer, the Pharmacy Examining Board or the Department of Regulation and Licensing, Division of Enforcement deems that additional blood or urine screens are warranted, respondent shall submit to such additional screens as

requested or recommended. The supervising physician or therapist shall exceed the above stated minimum frequency for obtaining drug and alcohol screens to prevent ability of respondent to predict that no further screens will be required for a given period because the minimum frequency for that period has been met.

Respondent is responsible for obtaining a monitoring facility and reporting system acceptable to the Board. Respondent shall immediately provide a copy of this Order to the monitoring facility conducting the collection of specimen and/or chemical analyses upon specimens for the random witnessed drug and alcohol screening program.

To be an acceptable program, the monitoring facility and supervising physician and therapist shall agree to provide random and gatherings of specimens for analysis for the specified substances and alcohol under NIDA collection guidelines. Any specimen that yields a positive result for any controlled substance or alcohol shall be immediately subjected to a gas chromatography-mass spectrometry (hereinafter, "GC-MS") test to confirm the initial positive screen results. The monitoring facility and supervising physician and therapist shall agree to immediately file a written report directly with the Pharmacy Examining Board, the supervising physician or therapist, and the respondent's supervising pharmacist upon any of the following occurrences: if the respondent fails to appear for collection of a specimen as requested; or if a drug or alcohol screen and confirmatory GC-MS test prove positive; or if the specific gravity of a urine specimen is below 1.008; or if respondent refuses to give a specimen for analysis upon a request authorized under the terms of this Order. Respondent shall arrange for quarterly reports from the monitoring facility directly to the Board and to Respondent's supervising physician or therapist providing the dates and results of specimen analyses performed. Such reports shall be due on dates specified in paragraph 1.d. above.

The monitoring facility shall further agree to keep a record of the custody of all specimens collected and subjected to analysis. The facility shall further agree to preserve any specimens which yielded positive results for any controlled substance or alcohol, or specific gravity below 1.008, pending further written direction from the Board (not to exceed one year).

Respondent understands and agrees that the accuracy of the monitoring facility obtained is respondent's responsibility. For purposes of further board action under this order, it is rebuttably presumed that all confirmed positive reports are valid. Respondent has the burden of proof to establish by a preponderance of the evidence an error in testing or fault in the chain of custody regarding a positive monitoring report.

(5) Quarterly Reports. Respondent shall arrange for quarterly reports from his supervising physician or therapist directly to the Board evaluating and reporting:

- (a) A summary of Respondent's progress in his rehabilitation program to date, and all recommendations for continuing rehabilitation treatment,
- (b) Respondent's attendance in NA/AA meetings,
- (c) Respondent's participation in and results of his random witnessed urine and/or blood screening program.

Such quarterly reports shall be due on the dates specified under paragraph 1.d. of this Order.

(6) Immediate Reports. Respondent shall arrange for agreement by his supervising physician or therapist, and his employer, to report immediately to the Board any conduct or condition of respondent that may constitute a danger to the public in his practice of pharmacy, and any occurrence that constitutes a failure on the part of respondent to comply with the requirements of this Order or treatment recommendations by the supervising physician or therapist, including any indications of consumption of alcohol or unauthorized use of any controlled substances, failure to appear for a urine or blood screening, notice of any positive blood and/or urine screen for alcohol or controlled substances, and any urine specimen that is below a specific gravity of 1.008.

c. Practice of Pharmacy: Limitations and Conditions. Any practice of Pharmacy by respondent during the pendency of this Order shall be subject to the following terms and conditions:

(1) Full Compliance with Order Required. Respondent shall not practice as a pharmacist in any capacity unless he is in full compliance with the rehabilitation and treatment programs as specified and approved under this Order.

(2) No Managing Pharmacist. Respondent shall not be employed as or work in the capacity of a "managing pharmacist" as defined in § Phar 1.02(6), Wis. Adm. Code.

(3) No Pharmacist in Charge. Respondent shall not be employed as or work in the capacity of a "pharmacist in charge" as defined in § Phar 1.02(9), Wis. Adm. Code.

Terms for Modification of Prohibition on Practice as Pharmacist In Charge. Respondent may petition the Board for modification of this prohibition against practice as a pharmacist in charge after 90 days or 550 hours of supervised practice and compliance by respondent with all terms and conditions of this Order. Any such petition shall be accompanied by written request of the supervising pharmacist, which shall include a complete work schedule of all pharmacists employed in the pharmacy indicating the proposed work schedule and supervision pattern for respondent. Such petition shall also include a written recommendation of the supervising physician or therapist specifically addressing the modification sought. The Board in its discretion may at any time modify any of the terms regarding practice by respondent as a pharmacist in charge, including removal of authorization under this Order of respondent to practice as a pharmacist in charge, as the Board deems appropriate in the circumstances. Grounds for modification or removal of the authorization to practice as a pharmacist in charge may include, but shall not be limited to, change in employer, managing pharmacist or residence address of the respondent. Modification of these terms and conditions, or removal of authorization under this Order of respondent to practice as a pharmacist in charge shall not be deemed a class 1 or class 2 proceeding under §§227.01(3) or 227.42, Wis. Stats., or Ch. RL 1 or 2, Wis. Adm. Code, and shall not be subject to any right to a further hearing or appeal.

(4) Provision of Copy of Order to Employers. Respondent shall provide his employer and any prospective employers with a copy of this Stipulation and Final

Decision and Order immediately upon issuance of this Order, and upon any change in employment.

(5) Quarterly Reports. Respondent shall arrange for his supervising pharmacist to provide directly to the Board quarterly written reports evaluating Respondent's work performance, which shall include reports or information required under subparagraph (6) and (7) hereunder. Such reports shall be due on the dates specified in paragraph 1.d. of this Order.

(6) Monitoring of Access to Drugs. Respondent shall obtain agreement from his supervising pharmacist to monitor Respondent's access to and accountability for handling of controlled substances and other abuseable prescription drugs in order to reasonably detect loss, diversion, tampering, or discrepancy relating to controlled substances and other abuseable prescription drugs. Respondent's supervisor shall include in the quarterly reports a description of Respondent's access to controlled substances and other abuseable drugs and the monitoring thereof. Any loss, diversion, tampering, or discrepancy shall be immediately reported to the Board.

(7) Controlled Substances Audits. In addition to the foregoing subparagraph (6), Respondent shall obtain from his supervising pharmacist agreement to conduct a full and exact (not estimated) count of the following controlled substances in inventory immediately, and accountability audits of the following controlled substances every six months for the duration of this Order: all narcotics, all amphetamines (including cogenors like benzphetamine), all benzodiazepines. The audit shall be conducted by and certified by a licensed pharmacist other than respondent, who shall be approved by the Board. A summary of all audits required under this subparagraph shall be included in the quarterly report following the audit, however, any discrepancy or missing drugs indicated by the audits shall be immediately reported in writing to the Board.

(8) Immediate Reports. Respondent shall arrange for agreement by his supervising pharmacist to immediately report to the Board and to the supervising physician or therapist any conduct or condition of Respondent that may constitute a violation of this Order or a danger to the public.

d. Consents for Release of Information. Respondent shall provide and keep on file with his supervising physician/therapist and all treatment facilities and personnel current releases which comply with state and federal laws, authorizing release of all his medical and drug and alcohol counseling, treatment and monitoring records to the Pharmacy Examining Board and the Department of Regulation and Licensing, Division of Enforcement, and permitting his supervising physician/therapist and treating physicians and therapists to disclose and discuss the progress of his treatment and rehabilitation and all matters relating thereto with the Pharmacy Examining Board or its duly authorized representatives or agents. Copies of these releases shall be filed simultaneously with the Pharmacy Examining Board and the Division of Enforcement. Respondent shall also provide and keep on file with his current employer(s) current releases authorizing release of all employment records and reports regarding Respondent to the Pharmacy Examining Board and the Division of Enforcement, and authorizing his employer to discuss with the Board or its authorized agents and representatives Respondent's employment history, progress and status and all matters relating thereto. Copies of these employment records releases shall be filed simultaneously with the Board and the Division of Enforcement.

e. Notification of Change of Address and Employment. The Respondent shall report to the Board any change of employment status, residence address or phone number within five (5) days of any such change.

3. COSTS AND RESTITUTION. Respondent shall pay COSTS of this investigation under §440.22, Wis. Stats. in the amount \$100, to the Department of Regulation and Licensing, and shall make restitution for any losses caused by the conduct described in this order, within 180 days of this Order.

4. PHARMACY OWNERSHIP PROHIBITED. Respondent shall not own in whole or in part any interest in a pharmacy during the period of time this Order remains in effect.

5. TERMS FOR MODIFICATION OF ORDER. Following successful compliance with and fulfillment of the provisions of paragraph 2. of this Order for a period of two years, the Respondent may petition the Board, in conjunction with an application for extension of the stay of suspension, for modification of the conditions or limitations for stay of suspension. Any such petition shall be accompanied by a written recommendation of respondent's supervising physician or therapist expressly supporting the specific modifications sought. A denial of such a petition for modification shall not be deemed a denial of license under §§227.01(3), or 227.42, Wis. Stats., or Ch. RL 1, Wis. Adm. Code, and shall not be subject to any right to further hearing or appeal.

6. RESPONDENT RESPONSIBLE FOR COSTS AND EXPENSES OF COMPLIANCE. Respondent shall be responsible for all costs and expenses of complying with this Order and for arranging any alternative means for covering such costs and expenses.

7. BOARD/DEPARTMENT INSPECTIONS. The Board or the Department in its discretion may conduct unannounced inspections and/or audits, and make copies, of pharmacy records and inventory where respondent is employed as a pharmacist.

8. VIOLATIONS OF ORDER. Violation of any of the terms of this Order or of any law substantially relating to the practice of pharmacy may result in a summary suspension of the Respondent's license; the denial of an extension of the stay of suspension or the termination of the stay; the imposition of additional conditions and limitations; or the imposition of other additional discipline, including revocation of license.

9. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Order shall become effective immediately upon issuance by the Pharmacy Examining Board, except for provision 2.a., which is effective the date of signing by respondent.

Dated this May 14, 1996.

PHARMACY EXAMINING BOARD

By:


A Member of the Board

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STATE OF WISCONSIN
BEFORE THE PHARMACY EXAMINING BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF :
DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS AGAINST :

ERIC A. SCHUSTER, R. Ph. :
RESPONDENT. :

STIPULATION
95 PHM 55

It is hereby stipulated between the above Respondent and the Department of Regulation and Licensing, Division of Enforcement by its undersigned attorney as follows:

1. This Stipulation is entered into as a result of a pending investigation of licensure of Respondent by the Division of Enforcement. Respondent consents to the resolution of this investigation by agreement and without the issuance of a formal complaint.

2. Respondent understands that by signing this Stipulation, respondent waives the following rights with respect to disciplinary proceedings: the right to a statement of the allegations against respondent; a right to a hearing at which time the State has the burden of proving those allegations; the right to confront and cross-examine the witnesses against respondent; the right to call witnesses on respondent's behalf and to compel attendance of witnesses by subpoena; the right to testify personally; the right to file objections to any proposed decision and to present briefs or oral arguments to the officials who are to render the final decision; the right to petition for rehearing; and all other applicable rights afforded to respondent under the United States Constitution, the Wisconsin Constitution, the Wisconsin Statutes, and the Wisconsin Administrative Code.

3. Respondent is aware of respondent's right to seek legal representation and has been provided the opportunity to seek legal advice before signing this Stipulation.

4. Respondent agrees to the adoption of the attached Final Decision and Order by the Board, and in particular to abide by paragraph 2(a) of the Order as of the date respondent signs this Stipulation. The parties consent to the entry of the attached Final Decision and Order without further notice, pleading, appearance or consent of the parties. Respondent waives all rights to any appeal of the Board's order, if adopted in the form as attached.

5. If the terms of this Stipulation are not acceptable to the Board, the parties shall not be bound by the contents of this Stipulation or the proposed Final Decision and Order, and the matter shall be returned to the Division of Enforcement for further proceedings. In the event that this Stipulation is not accepted by the Board, the parties agree not to contend that the Board has been prejudiced or biased in any manner by the consideration of this attempted resolution.

6. The parties agree that an attorney for the Division of Enforcement may appear before the Board, in open or closed session, without the presence of Respondent or Respondent's attorney, for the purposes of speaking in support of this agreement and answering questions that the members of the Board and its staff may have in connection with their deliberations on the case.

7. The Board Advisor in this matter may participate freely in any deliberations of the Board regarding acceptance of this Stipulation and the proposed Final Order, and may relate to the Board any knowledge and views of the case acquired during the investigation.

8. The Division of Enforcement joins Respondent in recommending that the Board adopt this Stipulation and issue the attached Final Decision and Order.

9. Respondent is informed that should the Board adopt this stipulation, the board's final decision and order is a public record and will be published in the monthly *Report of Decisions* issued by the department. A summary of the order will be published in the *Wisconsin Regulatory Digest* issued semiannually by the Board. This is standard department procedure and in no way specially directed at Respondent.

Eric G. Schuster 09 May 1996
Respondent Date

Arthur H. Huxton 5/13/96
Prosecuting Attorney Date
Division of Enforcement

NOTICE OF APPEAL INFORMATION

Notice Of Rights For Rehearing Or Judicial Review. The Times Allowed For Each. And The Identification Of The Party To Be Named As Respondent.

Serve Petition for Rehearing or Judicial Review on:

STATE OF WISCONSIN PHARMACY EXAMINING BOARD

1400 East Washington Avenue

P.O. Box 8935

Madison, WI 53708.

The Date of Mailing this Decision is:

May 15, 1996

1. REHEARING

Any person aggrieved by this order may file a written petition for rehearing within 20 days after service of this order, as provided in sec. 227.49 of the *Wisconsin Statutes*, a copy of which is reprinted on side two of this sheet. The 20 day period commences the day of personal service or mailing of this decision. (The date of mailing this decision is shown above.)

A petition for rehearing should name as respondent and be filed with the party identified in the box above.

A petition for rehearing is not a prerequisite for appeal or review.

2. JUDICIAL REVIEW.

Any person aggrieved by this decision may petition for judicial review as specified in sec. 227.53, *Wisconsin Statutes* a copy of which is reprinted on side two of this sheet. By law, a petition for review must be filed in circuit court and should name as the respondent the party listed in the box above. A copy of the petition for judicial review should be served upon the party listed in the box above.

A petition must be filed within 30 days after service of this decision if there is no petition for rehearing, or within 30 days after service of the order finally disposing of a petition for rehearing, or within 30 days after the final disposition by operation of law of any petition for rehearing.

The 30-day period for serving and filing a petition commences on the day after personal service or mailing of the decision by the agency, or the day after the final disposition by operation of the law of any petition for rehearing. (The date of mailing this decision is shown above.)